

TOP SECRET

DM-645

DEPUTIES' MEETING

Monday, 7 July 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, Mr. Wisner, Colonel White, [REDACTED]
Messrs. Sheldon, Kirkpatrick [REDACTED]

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Mr. Dulles:

a) Asked Mr. [REDACTED] to check on what has been received through his sources on the possibility of a build-up by the CHICOMS in the areas on the mainland adjacent to Taiwan. The Director said should these sources show nothing, consideration should be given to "querying" them.

b) Noted a CIA message to Phnom Penh indicating that the Soviet embassy official who recently defected there has allegedly written a letter to the Russians stating that he now wishes to return to the Soviet Union. Mr. Wisner reported that the Department of State had received a note from the Soviet Government on 4 July stating that in fact it had received a letter from this defector stating that he wished to return to the U.S.S.R. In a conversation with Acting Secretary of State Herter he (Herter) had said it was his understanding that this man was no longer in the U.S. but had been returned to West Germany. Mr. Wisner went on to say [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] he was of the opinion that this defector should remain, at least for the time being, in the U.S. Mr. Wisner said he based this on the fact that in all probability we would be better off propaganda-wise if the Department of State would hold a press conference and surface U.S. custody of this man. It was pointed out that in a similar situation sometime ago such a procedure had gone sour and it was suggested that possibly a "friendly leak" might be the best way to handle this problem. The Director commented that since this man appears to be off his rocker about half the time we might be better off if he were released to the U.S.S.R. immediately. After some further discussion the Director stated that taking all things into consideration, he felt it best to get this man to Germany soonest, particularly since the U.S. Government would be put in a most embarrassing position should it be served with a writ of habeas corpus by the U.S.S.R. In response to a query from the Director, Mr. Wisner replied that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the final decision as to action taken will be considered on a high-level in the Department of State *(Foy Kohler). It was also noted that Messrs. [REDACTED] and Houston would attend [REDACTED] this afternoon, which will be preceded by internal CIA meetings this morning.

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[REDACTED] In checking the name spelling of Mr. Kohler I found out from [REDACTED] that he did not attend the meeting after all, but rather it was attended by Amb. Cumming, Buford, Seffens, and one other person whom he did not know.

TOP SECRET

c) Referred to the imminent return of the nine American air crewmen who were forced down in the U.S.S.R. and stated that he desired to be advised immediately should it be decided by the Air Force that court-martial proceedings would be instigated against any member of this crew. The Director stated there was no indication that such action would take place, however, he wanted to be warned well in advance in order that he might discuss this problem with the Air Force. He noted that should court-martial proceedings take place, the information derived therefrom would be invaluable should it fall into the wrong hands.

25X1 d) Noted that he had forwarded to Mr. Sheldon a briefing paper which had been furnished by [] and which he did not use at the NSC on Thursday. The Director asked Mr. Sheldon to thank [] for this paper and return it to him if he wanted it back. 25X1

25X1 e) Noted his concern about the situation in Venezuela and asked Mr. Wisner to get in touch with Mr. Rubottom of the Department of State and explore with him the idea of getting together with representatives of the oil and steel industries who have interests in Venezuela in order to obtain their views. The Director also said that Mr. Wisner should discuss with Mr. Rubottom [] 25X1

f) Noted he had received a report from DD/P indicating that there is a strong likelihood that the CHICOMS are not attempting to entice overseas Chinese students to return to the mainland to further their education and stated since we have repeatedly indicated that the CHICOMS were doing this he desired to get something out to the Community in the very near future. ACTION: DD/I

25X1 g) Noted he had received memoranda from Messrs. [] on the possibility of a break in Soviet-Sino relations and commented while these two papers were somewhat divergent in their views, i.e., [] pro and [] con, he felt that further study on this idea was appropriate. Therefore he asked Messrs. Wisner and Sheldon to study these memoranda further and furnish him their comments. 25X1

h) Noted that Mr. Robert Gray, Secretary to the Cabinet had asked for a copy of our report on the Russian Civil Aviation Program and asked when it would be out in final form. ACTION: Mr. Sheldon

i) Noted he would like to keep the White House currently informed on the situation in Cuba and asked DD/P to prepare a brief memorandum on this subject which he might forward to General Goodpastor. ACTION: [] 25X1

Mr. Sheldon:

Referred to the report received [] at about 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, 3 July, that there were 16 unidentified aircraft

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[] and commented while he would not, without evaluation, have forwarded this report to the White House he had done so at the request of Mr. Wisner who was Acting Director. Mr. Sheldon went on to say that similar reports of this type had been received before and we might expect to receive them in the future. In response to a query from the Director he noted that the report in question had been received through the proper channels and it had taken only 12 minutes from the time the aircraft were sighted [] to disseminate this unevaluated information to the Intelligence Community in the U.S. The Director said in his opinion he believed the White House would desire to be advised of unevaluated reports of this nature and asked Mr. Sheldon to talk over this matter with General Goodpastor.

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Mr. Wisner:

Noted that in conversation with Acting Secretary of State Herter, Mr. Herter had indicated that CIA should interest itself in the [] case and possibly pass on to some of the more interested news media what we find out. Mr. Wisner commented that should we do this, in his opinion, it would soon become known what we are doing. The Director said this was rather a difficult one since if this was a crime committed in the U.S., it was, of course, outside of our jurisdiction.

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Noted that the revised NSCID #1 was being circulated to the members of the IAC and USCIB today. The Director stated that before this is done he wanted to be sure that all interested components of CIA are in agreement with the proposed changes of this directive.

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Noted that Demaree Bess was planning to do an article for the Saturday Evening Post on the Soviet Economic Program, based somewhat on the Director's talk before the Chamber of Commerce on 28 April 1958 and suggested that it might be helpful if Mr. Bess could talk with [] in order to receive any unclassified information on this subject that he might have. The Director agreed.
ACTION: Mr. Sheldon

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[]
Noted that at the request of several field stations DD/P had undertaken with assistance from DD/I to furnish a daily situation report in order to help these stations follow developments in the Soviet Bloc. [] noted that while this was a DD/I function DD/P had been performing it since Mr. Sheldon had indicated that OCI was already overburdened in getting out other situation reports. Subsequent to the meeting Mr. Sheldon discussed this problem with the Director and it was agreed the report in question would be discontinued after 8 July.

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